GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

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Photograph by Albert Couturiaux

SCARS ARE BEAUTY SPOTS FOR THE CONGO BELLE

Her beauty treatment won't come off in the rain, for she has permanent waves across her shoulder blades and semi-ringlets down her backbone. Decoration for natives of the Belgian Congo is a form of surgery; the skin is gashed, and the incisions filled with ashes. This somewhat savage standard of beauty survives in the primitive country where the Albert National Park has been established to save rare forms of animal life (Bulletin No. 5).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 27, 1922, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Feb. 9, 1922. Copyright, 1938, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

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Jaffa, Holy Land Home of Fruit and Fish Stories

IN A CLEAN-UP of centers of Arab revolt in Palestine, British troops swept through the center of the country, confirming their authority in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Gaza to the south, and finally Jaffa on the sea coast to the north.

Jaffa was the tinder-box of Arab opposition to which Palestine's current uprising has been traced, touched off by a general strike there in 1936. Why should Arab protest against Britain's pro-Jewish policy smolder throughout the Holy Land, but break into flame at Jaffa? This ancient city, traditionally dating from Noah's flood, and twentieth century Arab stronghold second in size only to Jerusalem has seen itself cast into the shade by the amazing twenty-five-years' growth of its obscure Jewish suburb, Tel Aviv.

In 1909, Jewish colonists built sixty-two houses a mile north of Jaffa, calling the development "Tel Aviv" after the colony described in Biblical accounts of the Babylonian captivity. Today it is Palestine's largest city.

Chinese "Orange Gold" Makes Arab Wealth

Moreover, since Tel Aviv opened its own port for business in 1936, Jaffa—the old port which had served Solomon, St. Peter, and Napoleon in their time—has received only one-third as much shipping as in 1935. Tel Aviv meantime has boomed ship loading from zero to 17 per cent of the volume of Jaffa's, and the incoming commerce to more than three-fourths as much as Jaffa's.

For two centuries Jaffa's money has grown on trees—orange trees. The narrow strip of plain, barely 20 miles wide, east of the port is striped with the green rows of orange groves, from which the fragrance of white blossoms drifts far out to sea. Cypresses are lined up among the shorter plumper fruit trees as windbreaks. Portuguese sailors probably gave Palestine its little round sour oranges, but the big golden globes of Jaffa—thick-skinned, seedless, sweet, and large as grapefruit—are said to have been brought by an Armenian priest straight to the city from China. Camels have been carting the fruit from grove to docks of Jaffa's harbor, eight crates to a camel-load, four on each side. The orange freight alone has sufficed to lure big modern freighters to the port whose name accompanies its fruit around the world. But trucks from Tel Aviv have been finding their way to surrounding groves, and "Jaffas" no longer are loaded at Jaffa only.

The ancient port won a reputation for progressive outlook when the Holy Land's first railway was opened in 1892, from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

Jaffan "Who's Who" Includes Perseus, Dorcas, Jonah, and Cleopatra

The port lies about halfway down the straight inhospitable Palestine coast, the only harbor of much value between Egypt and the more northerly Haifa, which with a new railroad is becoming another serious threat to Jaffa's coastal supremacy. Since King Solomon had rafts of cedar logs floated down from Lebanon for his temple, Jaffa has been the official "gateway of Jerusalem," which is 40 miles inland.

A rocky dome jutting through sand dunes into the Mediterranean attracted Jaffa's founder, reputed to be Japhet, Noah's son. Close-packed stone houses now cover the rock in irregular tiers, crowded like a nosegay into the tight boundary marked until 1888 by a fortified stone wall, remnant of a hundred sieges. Minarets of mosques predominate over steeples of Christian monasteries on the skyline.

When the Philistines took Jaffa, they imported their fish god, Dagon. Ever since, big fish have been bobbing up in the port's stories. One voyager from Jaffa

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Photograph by Alfred Eisenstadt-Pix

DESPITE NEW TRAINS TO CAMBRIDGE, STUDENTS FIND NO "ROYAL ROAD TO LEARNING"

You may speed up the trip to the university, undergraduates find, but not *through* it. Extra train service offers no relief from the ancient and arduous procedure of studying one's way to a degree. Serious young undergraduates of Trinity College of Cambridge University, in traditional dark blue gowns, take notes under the watchful eye of Henry VIII's portrait; he founded the college. Girls may not enroll, but may use the library (Bulletin No. 2).

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Oxford and Cambridge Linked by Streamliner

ENGLAND'S two great universities, Oxford and Cambridge, have much in common—venerable buildings, ripe old traditions, mutual enthusiasm for rowing on narrow rivers, and a very caustic variety of student wit.

The latter came into the news recently when the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway proudly announced that England's two senior university towns were to be linked by a streamlined train that would traverse the 77 miles of quiet English landscape between them in 1¾ hours.

Undergraduates at each end of the line promptly adopted an attitude of non-enthusiasm and polite scorn. The blame for this invasion of modernism, they declared, must be placed squarely on the shoulders of the American tourist, because no Cambridge man ever had the slightest desire to go to Oxford, whether by streamliner or any other way, and no true Oxonian would be caught dead in Cambridge!

Three Trips One Way, Two the Other, Creates Problem!

Nor was the matter allowed to rest there. For an unexplained reason railroad officials announced that the new train would make three trips a day from Cambridge to Oxford, but only two from Oxford to Cambridge. Cambridge, alma mater of Sir Isaac Newton, Stokes, Lord Kelvin, and other famed mathematicians, gleefully set to work with pad and pencil to prove that, at this rate, the sidings at Oxford would soon be so full of extra trains that Oxford would be backed off the map.

When the railroad blushingly confessed that the third daily Oxford-Cambridge run would be made at night, incognito as a milk train, the furor arose anew. Undergraduate statisticians pointed out that three passenger-carrying trains daily in one direction (to Oxford) and only two in the other (assuming, of course, that there was enough traffic to justify the schedule) would quickly create a housing problem at one end of the line!

The route of the new streamliner winds through some of the quaintest, yet least known, sections of the English Midlands. Most traffic through this pleasant farming region is along the busy trunklines from London north to Scotland, and northwest to Manchester and Liverpool. The streamliner crosses over and under these arteries of travel, a Diesel-driven streak of scarlet and aluminum that contrasts strangely with old market towns, thatched cottages, and quiet, willow-bordered riversides.

Lace-Making and Straw-Plaiting—Local Industries

Islip, seven miles out of Oxford, is the birthplace of Edward the Confessor, who gave the town to Westminster Abbey, which he founded. The abbey still owns the manor here. Islip was also the scene of three battles during England's Civil War in the seventeenth century.

Bicester (pronounced "Bister") is surrounded by flat meadows and some of the finest fox hunting country in England. Beyond stretches the open plain of Ot Moore, one of the most wildly beautiful districts in the Midlands.

Many switches, signal lights and an overhanging pall of coal smoke mark Bletchley, the most important railroad junction on the route. Here the main line to Manchester is crossed. Bletchley is in Buckinghamshire, a county still famed for its lace-making cottagers, as in the days of Cowper.

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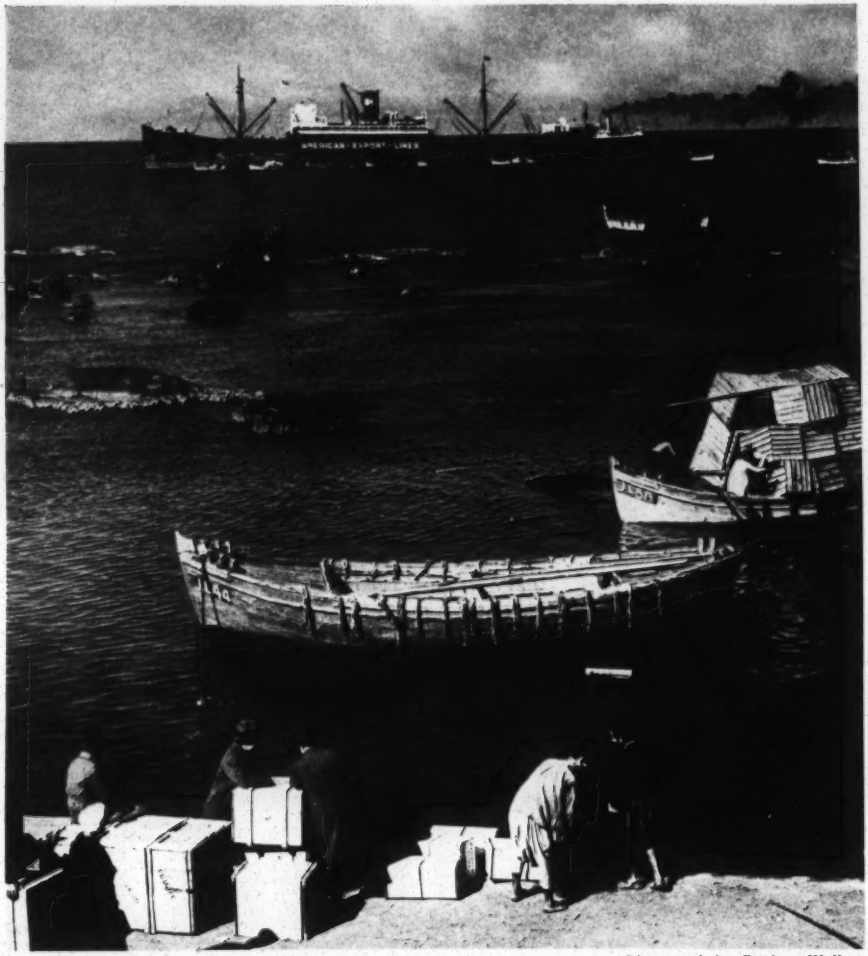
wound up inside a whale—Jonah. The legendary Ethiopian princess, Andromeda, came there only to be chained to the rock reef as sacrifice to a sea dragon, until gallant Grecian Perseus galloped by on his winged horse to salvage her.

Biblical name for the port was Joppa. Here St. Peter had the vision which led him to extend Christianity to Gentiles as well as Jews. He was in the city on miracle business, restoring to life the charitable Dorcas, or Tabitha, for whom countless sewing circles have since been named. A chamber cut into the rock a mile east of the city, within a Russian Church Settlement, is pointed out as her tomb.

Note: Additional material about Jaffa will be found in "Changing Palestine," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1934; "Flying over Egypt, Sinai, and Palestine," September, 1926. Jaffa may be located on the wall map supplement of Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization, issued with the December, 1938, *Geographic* article, "Change Comes to Palestine."

Bulletin No. 1, November 21, 1938.



Photograph by Gardner Wells

FREIGHTERS CALL WHERE JONAH EMBARKED TO MEET THE WHALE

The rock reef around Jaffa has served for thirty centuries to break the force of Mediterranean waves rolling against the port, and the calm waters within the reef gave anchorage to Solomon's fleet. A new breakwater now gives additional protection to part of the harbor. Large vessels are loaded with cargo that crosses the reef in rowboats.

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Thanksgiving Season "Says It" with Chrysanthemums

WHY isn't there a national poll to show whether the Thanksgiving turkey's more constant dinner partner is cranberries or chrysanthemums? The flower is more widely grown than the berry. In a large percentage of American homes below the November snow line, when the gobbler arrives at the Thanksgiving dinner table, he will find himself preceded by a bouquet of chrysanthemums, which, loftily from the centerpiece, will supervise his distribution and disappearance.

Moreover, the chrysanthemum has another rôle in Thanksgiving festivities as companion of the football. For one pigskin oval on the field, a big game brings out hundreds of the flowery globes pinned to grandstand bosoms.

These solid handfuls of color are a recent addition to the Thanksgiving scene which the feast's originators could not have had. For the flower is a native of China. The Netherlands did not make the acquaintance of the flowery ambassador from the Orient until 1688, and England not until nearly a century later. It was one of the arts of peace that the British began to cultivate around 1790 after losing a war and thirteen American colonies; when the smoke of battle cleared away, the prim English garden had been invaded by these Asiatic sunbursts of bloom.

Hoboken Immigrant Was Once the Mandarin's Delight

An early American tradition tells that the chrysanthemum completed its pilgrimage from the Orient to the young United States the year after President George Washington died, and landed in Hoboken. It was a strange flower with heavy purple head, and at first American florists hesitated to take it freely into their gardens. Three decades later only twenty-six varieties were offered for sale; a 1935 chrysanthemum census showed 4,900 varieties officially registered. The staid old city of Philadelphia was won by a stately white bloom named for William Penn in 1841; Boston cautiously gave chrysanthemums the once-over in an 1844 show.

Since then the flower has blossomed right out of the orchid class of fashionable exotics and has taken root in the humblest gardens, flaunting its hardy colors in the very teeth of November until thoroughly frosted. Although an autumn-only bloom, it takes its place in popularity close to that of the year-round favorite, the rose. Just as it once inspired Confucius to break his philosophic calm and pet-name it "yellow glory," it has more recently inspired a small library of technical literature.

As recently as 1843 the Scottish plant-pirate Robert Fortune had to wear Chinese costume and a long artificial queue to obtain admittance to the high-walled gardens of Chinese mandarins, from which he stealthily kidnapped some new chrysanthemum species, including the Chusan daisy, ancestor of today's pompons.

Made When Mythical Maiden Shredded Carnation Petals with Hairpin

The chrysanthemum's name is Greek, meaning "yellow flower." But what's in that name to hint the wide color range of the flower today—the delicate pink and subtly blended lavender, and autumn's own tawny bronze? Horticulturists have, like artists, painted the curly petals, using the science of heredity as their palette. Lifting pollen carefully from one flower to another, the flower-makers have developed hybrid seedlings different from both parent plants. One breeder alone has created about 500 new varieties. The Department of Agriculture annually shows about 573 different kinds.

Some types are as distinctive in silhouette as in color, including large and infant-size globes and hemispheres, round heads with coiffure neatly brushed up, shaggy and tousled heads; petal clusters, thread clusters, feather clusters; some with

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At Fenny Stratford the line crosses "Watling Street," once a Roman road from London to Chester, and today a modern motor highway. Near Woburn the character of the country changes, dark pine woods replacing farmland. This is Bedfordshire, "the John Bunyan country." The austere author of *Pilgrim's Progress* was born in Elstow, a mile south of the county seat, Bedford. Not far away is the air center at Cardington, where England stores its big dirigibles and tests the kite balloons which would be used to encircle London in the event of an air raid. Straw-plaiting is the chief native industry of the district.

Near Sandy, so named from the soil of the region, the route enters Cambridgeshire and the fens. The country is so flat that it seems to be absolutely level. Yet, near Cambridge, a group of low ridges rises to the right—the Gogmagog Hills.

Gog and Magog, according to English tradition, were brothers in the tribe of giants who opposed the settlement of England by the Britons.

Spires of the college buildings of Cambridge can be seen across the grassy fens for some time before the train reaches the city.

Despite the obvious charms of the route, it is a safe wager that the Oxford Union, and the equivalent debating society of Cambridge, will soon be introducing resolutions to the effect: *"Resolved*, that this house deplores the opening of streamline train service between Oxford and Cambridge."

Note: See also "Within the Halls of Cambridge," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1936; "Vagabonding in England," March, 1934; "Oxford, Mother of Anglo-Saxon Learning," November, 1929; "A Tour in the English Fenland," May, 1929; and "Through the Heart of England in a Canadian Canoe," May, 1922.

See also the Modern Pilgrim's Map of the British Isles, obtainable at 50¢ (paper) and $1.00 (linen).

Bulletin No. 2, November 21, 1938.

Photograph by Gillman

OXFORD'S CHOICE OF STREAMLINED TRAVEL IS BRISK WALKING

The pleasant rolling country north of Oxford confirms university students in their taste for strolling tours. Trimmed shrubbery and thatched steep-roofed houses are typical of the scenery which flashes past the window of the new streamlined trains. The students are on their way to a gunless beagle hunt; huntsmen on foot follow the beagle hounds in a long cross-country chase for a hare.

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Celebration for Saints Brings Gypsies to Southern France

A STRANGE celebration in a tiny fishing village of southern France recently brought into the news a rare footnote to the folklore of Christianity. The village of Les Saintes Maries de la Mer celebrated its semiannual holiday, the occasion of blessing the sea for bringing the Holy Marys safely to France from Palestine after the crucifixion of Christ.

The legend cherished in the village tells that Mary Jacobee (mother of St. James the Less), Mary Salome (mother of the Apostles James and John), Mary Magdalene, and Lazarus were exiled from the Holy Land, in an open boat on the Mediterranean. With them was their Egyptian servant Sarah, now the patron saint of gypsies. Their boat was cast up on the seashore beside where the village now stands—an event commemorated twice a year by the devout country folk around Les Saintes Maries de la Mer.

The May celebration, when weather is mild and travel pleasant, especially attracts gypsies from all over Europe.

Dark Egyptian Saint for the Gypsies

Familiarly called Les Saintes or, in the local Provençal dialect, *Li Santo,* the village is an appropriate place for the gathering of these bizarre people. It lies in the southwestern edge of the Rhône delta, the marshy salty plain of La Camargue, where the cowboys of France herd their black fighting bulls and where flocks of rosy flamingoes haunt lagoons, adding strangeness to an already strange countryside.

Towering above Les Saintes' red-tiled roofs and the fishing boats drawn up on the sand, looms the large medieval fortress-church, Notre Dame de la Barque (Our Lady of the Ship). This is the magnet that lures the gypsies.

Supposed relics of the Holy Marys, preserved in the church, attract the devout. To do reverence to them, cowboys with pretty girls riding behind them come galloping up to town on their white horses. From the coast come fishermen and sailors. Shepherds, hunters, and grape-growers arrive on foot or roll up in carts or automobiles.

The gypsies, however, are drawn here not by the Holy Marys, but by the dusky servant who accompanied the exiles' wanderings, the Egyptian Sarah. Worshipping her as their patron saint, gypsies try to make a pilgrimage at least once in their lives to her tomb in the church's crypt. During the May festival, gypsies spend the night in the shadowy crypt guarding her tomb.

Gypsies Carry Statues Down to the Sea

Light from two huge tapers near the tomb flickers over an eerie scene, a horde of restless wanderers of swarthy skin, flashing eye, and raven-black hair. Light glitters from the coin necklaces of beautiful, frowsy women nursing nude babies, and from the silver buttons on the jackets of sleeping men. All are awake, however, for the gypsy mass at three in the morning. The mass is sometimes followed by strange rites and, every few years, by elections of gypsy kings and queens to administer the simple but binding tribal laws.

Climax of the festival is the blessing of the sea. The French cowboys, priests, and others carrying banners form a procession. Shoulder high they carry images of the two Marys mounted in a crude boat down to the Mediterranean. The sea is

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petals curling in, others with petals splaying out; some like gangling lackadaisical daisies; some rearing a single cabbagy head on a seven-foot stem, some dropping a cascade of little blooms from a hanging plant.

The chrysanthemum probably developed as an extremely long-lashed daisy that closed its "eye" and concentrated on beautifying its "lashes." A flat, saucer-face bloom in the sixteen-petal stage of beautification is the national flower of Japan, appearing in gold on the red Royal Standard.

The Japanese myth explaining the chrysanthemum's origin attributes it to a lovesick maiden toying with a daisy in the "He loves me; he loves me not" process. A fairy promised that her lover would live as many years as the flower had petals. The girl seized a Persian carnation, shredded each petal into three, and padded the thin daisy to the chrysanthemum's present pin-cushion plumpness.

Note: The culture of chrysanthemums is described, with illustrations, in the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine:* "Southern California at Work," November, 1937; "Washington Through the Years," November, 1931; and "The Picturesque Side of Japanese Life," August, 1922.

Bulletin No. 3, November 21, 1938.

Photograph by Gabriel Moulin

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM IS A DAISY WITH A SWELLED HEAD

The tiny marguerite, the roadside feverfew, and the flat-faced ox-eye daisy are members of the same floral family as the bushy-headed chrysanthemum. The "imperial flower" reached the New World from the Orient across Europe and the Atlantic. But now, for the extensive gardens of southern California, parent plants are often imported directly across the Pacific, with gardeners to match, for among California's outdoor "mum" growers, Japanese hold first place.

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Albert National Park, Paradise for the Naturalist

ONE of the largest national playgrounds in the world is being advertised—not on billboards of vast extent, but—on postage stamps. The Belgian Congo is issuing a series of "National Park" stamps to attract attention to the Albert National Park. Not only letter writers and letter readers, but also those who are more interested in stamps than stampedes will give a thought to the park which is world-famed as one of the richest game preserves.

The Albert National Park is known in the United States through a gorilla family, received officially as the park's American representatives. These mountain gorillas are mounted as a habitat group in the Akeley Memorial Hall of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Carl Akeley, the famous American naturalist for whom the Hall is named, influenced the late Albert, King of the Belgians, to include in the extensive park a part of the fascinating Kivu district of the Congo. Akeley traveled through the region in 1921-22 and proposed making a gorilla sanctuary there.

First National Park in Africa

The area was set aside for the future delight of naturalists in 1925. Four years later it had an area of 1,506 square miles of mountains and plains between Lake Kivu and Lake Edward.

In 1935 it was enlarged to include 3,308 square miles, just 130 square miles less than the Yellowstone National Park, the largest in the United States. The Albert National Park is now over one-fourth as large as the Congo's mother country, Belgium. It is a wild, almost untouched stretch which could cover all of Delaware and most of Rhode Island, too.

Long and narrow, the park now stretches from Lake Kivu north across the Equator toward Lake Albert. It includes most of the waters of Lake Edward, the snow-covered Ruwenzori peaks, and an equatorial forest. The new portion shelters the interesting okapi and many rare animals and birds not found within the old limits.

Albert National Park was the first national park established in Africa. It also was among the world's first parks established for scientific purposes. It offers an ideal open-air laboratory in which to observe rare animals in natural surroundings.

Park To Become Research Center

To keep the animals untamed, a part of the park's area has been set aside as a wild life retreat in which even scientists are not allowed. In 1929 the park was placed under control of a committee composed of members from Belgium, France, England, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. Plans to make the park a research center include erection of a library, museum, laboratories and living quarters.

Several important expeditions have been made to the park. The Carnegie Institute and Yale University sponsored an expedition in 1929 to make a psychological study of the behavior and habits of the mountain gorilla. In the same year a joint expedition of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History studied the gorilla's relationship to man.

Besides gorillas, the park contains animal species which have been rapidly becoming extinct. Secretary birds, hornbills, wood hoopoes and many other birds

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blessed and the boat launched. While cowboys spur their horses into the water beside it, in their devout enthusiasm thousands of voices shout, "Vive les Saintes Maries."

Not to be outdone, the gypsies carry the wooden statue of their Saint Sarah down to the sea to crown her.

Some Come From India, Some From South America

This religious festival has its secular side. The town's narrow, cobbled streets are jammed. French peasants and swaggering gypsies crowd the temporarily erected swings and merry-go-rounds. They shout themselves hoarse at bull fights in the ring near the church, and at horse races, and dance to the wild strains of gypsy violins.

Many of the gypsies at the festival are Gitanos of southern France; horse-traders, sheep-shearers, dog-clippers. Some are tinsmiths and bear-trainers from northern France. Others are from Romania, Hungary, Spain, and Italy, and even India and South America.

The day following the festival, Les Saintes will seem almost deserted. All the gypsies' little covered "houses on wheels" will have disappeared, following the Romany trail no one knows where.

Note: The ceremonies at Les Saintes Maries de la Mer are more fully described, with pictures, in "Camargue, the Cowboy Country of Southern France," July, 1922, *National Geographic Magazine*. Other parts of southern France are described in "Across the Midi in a Canadian Canoe," August, 1927; "Carnival Days on the Riviera," October, 1926; and "The Beauties of France," November, 1915.

Bulletin No. 4, November 21, 1938.

Photograph by Clifton Adams

TOYS MAKE A CAREFREE PLAYGROUND OF THE CROSS OF THE UNHAPPY WANDERING SAINTS

An old stone cross in the village square of Les Saintes Maries de la Mer marks the traditional landing spot of the exiled saints from Palestine. The anguish of that enforced voyage, which gave rise to the legend of the faithful servant-saint, Sarah, casts no shadow over the doll-house-keepers playing at the base of the cross. The typical house of the village is of stone, with red tiles covering the roof.

lure ornithologists. Anthropologists are attracted by the park's primitive pygmy inhabitants.

Where Wild Gorillas Feed—On Wild Celery!

Since the park altitude ranges from about 2,500 to more than 14,000 feet above sea level, scientists may study animals and vegetation native to each level. Hippopotamuses wallow in the sluggish, palm-lined Rutshuru River. On nearby lava plains prowl lions while chimpanzees inhabit a small hill above them. Herds of antelope congregate on sandy, grassy plains. Ascending the lower foothills one comes upon mysterious, tunnellike passages through dense bamboo thickets worn by herds of elephants.

From 9,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level, the mountain gorillas live in forests of gigantic trees hung with moss, ferns and orchids. Here the gorillas feed on wild celery and make their "nests" in semi-open spots under the trees.

Note: Belgian Congo, in the eastern section of which Albert National Park is located, is described in "Trans-Africa Safari," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1938; "Keeping House on the Congo," November, 1937; "Nature's Most Amazing Mammal" (Elephant), June, 1934; "Through the Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926; "Cairo to Cape Town, Overland," February, 1925; and "Transporting a Navy Through the Jungles of Africa," October, 1922.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Medieval Crusader-Type Native State Found on African Safari," week of April 4, 1938; and "Belgium Keeps an Eye on the Belgian Congo," week of April 26, 1937.

The Albert National Park section of the Belgian Congo may be located on The Society's map of Africa, copies of which are available at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen).

Bulletin No. 5, November 21, 1938.

Photograph by Paul Philippson

A RAW RECRUIT IN THE CONGO'S DRAFTED ARMY OF ANIMAL WORKERS

One of the most useful of the Congo's wild animals is the elephant, which can be domesticated if caught young enough. This small calf (second from right) starts his training roped to the leg of a big tame adult with one tusk missing. Elephant herds graze in the wilds of the Albert National Park, without knowledge or fear of man. Gangs of Congo natives, thirty strong, specialize in separating the young ones from the herd and snaring them in ropes, for a lifetime of service to man.

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